'Education for minorities', in the Action Plan of the New Education Policy;

(b) the names of the States in which Hindus and other non-Muslim communities are respectively in minority; and

(c) what are the names of the districts in these States where the above mentioned communities are respectively considered dominating according to the same criteria and what is the Action Plan for them in each of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) In a paper presented in the Seminar on 'Education of Minorities' organised by the Minorities Commission sizeable educationally backward sections were found to exist among the Muslims. The list of 40 districts was included illustratively on the basis of sizeable Muslim population. The States have been requested to identify such educationally backward sections among other minorities and add to the list of districts. The heading to the Appendix to Chapter XIV on 'Minorities Education' in the Programme of Action was given inadvertently and steps are being taken to change it.

Mushrooming of Sub-standard Medical Colleges in the country

863. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the continuous deterioration in health and medical education in the country and the extent to which the mushrooming of sub-standard medical colleges is responsible for deterioration in the health and medical education; and

(b) if so, what measures are contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Medical Council of India, a statutory body charged with the responsibility of maintaining standards of medical education in the country has been striving hard to maintain the minimum standards of medical education in the country. However, some medical colleges have been established without the approval of the Medical Council of India. In order to put a stop to the mushrooming of substandard medical colleges, it is proposed to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 making it obligatory to obtain prior permission of the Council/Central Government before opening a new medical college and arming the Council with adequate powers to enforce standards of medical education.

Test-tube Baby in the country

864. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of experiments that have been conducted in the country to produce test-tube babies and what is the percentage of success;

(b) whether before embarking upon the technology, Government have considered the vital issues like medical hazards, effect on the health of women undergoing the experiments and, above all, social and psychological effect involved especially in the Indian society;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to commercialise the technology; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?